



Announcing March's SPOT Award Winners

Camila Tao

*Administrative Assistant IV, Water Permits Division,
Office of Environmental Services, LDEQ:*

I would like to nominate Camila Tao for the employee spot award. Ms. Tao has been working for LDEQ as an Environmental Chemical Specialist for over nine years in both the Air Quality Assessment Division (AQAD) and the Water Quality Assessment Division. Ms. Tao is currently responsible for reviewing, assessing, editing, and transmitting data collected from over thirty-five air monitoring sites within Louisiana for the AQAD. She also assists in troubleshooting and scheduling repairs on air monitoring instrumentation within the Air Analysis (AA) Group. Ms. Tao's primary responsibility is reviewing and transmitting collected data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine if the air quality in Louisiana is meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Since Ms. Tao is the primary contact for the transmittal of data to EPA for the AA team, she is responsible for keeping apprised of constant changes in Air Quality System database requirements. Ms. Tao reviews and submits over 100,000 data points on a quarterly basis into this database that requires continuous training and to keep apprised of system requirements. In addition to these duties, Ms. Tao often assists with public, industrial, and consultant firms inquiries related to all ambient air data.

During the recent ozone season, top priority was given to compiling the annual data report for 2008 by Ms. Tao, due to a tight deadline. Ms. Tao worked overtime to collect, review, and update the annual data in record time, which she was able to submit to EPA by the deadline. Ms. Tao did this at the request of her division administrator to ensure that data was available for Governor Bobby Jindal's office to demonstrate that Louisiana was indeed in attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard. This saved state officials and industries a significant amount of capital required to update current



Camila Tao receiving her SPOT Award

air pollution control and monitoring equipment to meet Air Quality Standards. Ms. Tao always completes her work in a timely and professional manner. She is an invaluable asset to our work group. I hope that you will consider her achievement as an attribute worthy of an employee spot award.

William Barlett

*Engineer Intern 2
Office of the Secretary/Business & Community
Outreach Group 1*

As you may be aware, The Clean Water State Revolving Fund stands to receive an additional \$43 Million as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The time restraints included by Congress are extremely tight and require these funds to be under contract by February 17, 2009. The DEQ's goal is to submit an Intended Use Plan to EPA Region 6 by the end of April and, as a result, a deadline of March 25, 2009 for the submission of applications for ARRA funding was communicated to potential participants. It was estimated that we would receive between 20 and 40 new applications as a result of this solicitation effort. Since March 17, Mr. Barlett

has entered over 240 new Applications into the Priority list database totaling over \$1.7 Billion in qualified projects.

Just as importantly, the EPA conducts a Needs Survey every fourth year. Ending in March 2009, while entering new applications, Mr. Barlett also continued to enter EPA Needs Survey data, raising Louisiana's entries by 20% to over \$5 Billion. This figure may be used in the allocation of funds in future reauthorizations of the Clean Water Act and may prove to be very important for the State of Louisiana.

Both of these tasks were single-handedly accomplished by Mr. Barlett with precision, accuracy, and efficiency. When extra time was needed to meet the requested deadlines, he worked over his normal schedule with commitment and a positive attitude. He was able to organize his workload and put forth the extraordinary effort that made the DEQ's participation in these two major events possible. Mr. Barlett should be commended for these accomplishments as well as maintaining his normal workload of engineering reviews, project construction inspections and customer service under these extremely demanding circumstances.

Thank you for considering Will Barlett for a SPOT Award as his exemplary performance has proven beneficial to the Department, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the state of Louisiana.



William Barlett receiving his SPOT Award